

4/28/11

Yosemite Crew

April 2011 Overview

Supervisor: Mark Allee

It never ceases to amaze me how fast a group of 14 strangers can feel like family. It hardly seems possible that we've only been together for a week. The saga began as we all came together from widely diverse backgrounds and lands. The 2011 Yosemite Backcountry crew gratefully arrived on Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. Welcomed into the arms of the backcountry family nerves were calmed and preparations made. Some were more prepared than others but as a crew we learned to take care of our own. Within the bounds of a safe and novel structure our personalities began to emerge. We have Aaron the writer and Javan the philosopher, we have Dr. Morgan and Erin the dynamo, we have Loni the expert and Mike the persistent, we have Najee the knowledgeable and Dustin the mountain man, we have Javi the wise and Mira the adventurer, we have Emily the brave, Amber the extravert and Andy the rock-all to be shaped, cajoled and guided by Mark the awesome.

We were inundated with key information this week just as Yosemite has been inundated with snow. Classes ran the gamut and examples include, journaling, foot care, EEO, IIPP, ASAP, uniforms, discipline, buddy system, stock safety, sobriety, sewing, eating, cleaning, PT, vehicles, gear checks, and teambuilding. By the end we were fully acculturated into the grand backcountry tradition, -safer, smarter and more prepared. We were well fed and well informed thanks to the hard work of Phil, Tessa, and Karlson.

Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> will find us at our new home in Foresta where we will stay until the snows melt. Our real training begins as we cover many maintenance miles on the valley floor while the promise of a bridge project entices and rockwork calls to us from deep in the backcountry. Kerrick canyon is our ultimate goal but we'll just have to wait and see where the 2011 season takes us.

Special thanks to all those who helped make this season happen-behind the scenes and in front of them. It was truly a herculean task and we are grateful. Thank you to our excellent trainers and teachers and to the families of our corpsmembers. Here's to a safe season for all crews.

Until next time...